

variable housing allowance under subsec. (a)(2) of this section was paid was to be the same as the rates in effect on Sept. 30, 1983.

VARIABLE HOUSING ALLOWANCE DURING FISCAL YEAR 1981; AMOUNT; REGULATIONS

Section 4(c) of Pub. L. 96-343 provided that during fiscal year 1981, a member of a uniformed service entitled to basic allowance for quarters under this section could be paid a variable housing allowance whenever assigned to duty in an area of the United States (other than Alaska and Hawaii) which was a high housing cost area with respect to such member, and a member with dependents who was assigned to an unaccompanied tour of duty outside the United States could be paid a variable housing allowance while serving such tour of duty for any period during which the member's dependents resided in an area of the United States which would qualify the member to receive a variable housing allowance if assigned to duty in that area.

PAY CONTINUATION

Amendment of this section by Pub. L. 92-129 not to reduce the pay to which any member of the uniformed services was entitled on June 30, 1971, see section 210 of Pub. L. 92-129, set out as a note under section 203 of this title.

1962 INCREASE IN QUARTERS ALLOWANCE

Act Oct. 12, 1949, ch. 681, title III, § 302(f), 63 Stat. 812, as amended by Pub. L. 87-531, § 1, July 10, 1962, 76 Stat. 152, which had provided for increases in quarters allowances without amending subsec. (a) of this section through the device of effecting an amendment to section 302(f) of the Career Compensation Act of 1949, was repealed by section 75(5) of Pub. L. 89-718 except with respect to rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before November 2, 1966. The substance of these quarters allowance increases were incorporated into the text of this section through the amendment of subsec. (a) of this section by Pub. L. 89-718.

ENLISTED MEMBERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS

Act Oct. 12, 1949, ch. 681, title III, § 302(g), 63 Stat. 812, which provided that enlisted members without dependents shall be entitled to a basic allowance for quarters at the rate of \$51.30 per month, was repealed by Pub. L. 87-531, § 2, July 10, 1962, 76 Stat. 152. Laws effective after Jan. 9, 1962, that are inconsistent with Pub. L. 87-649, to be considered as superseding Pub. L. 87-649 to the extent of the inconsistency, see section 12(a) of Pub. L. 87-649, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

AUTHORITY OF SECRETARIES WITH RESPECT TO PAYMENT OF QUARTERS ALLOWANCES

Pub. L. 87-531, § 5, July 10, 1962, 76 Stat. 153, provided that: "The Secretaries of the departments concerned shall have the same authority with respect to payments of quarters allowances to enlisted members of the uniformed services to pay grades E-4 (over 4 years' service) through E-9 that they have with respect to enlisted members of the uniformed services in pay grades E-1, E-2, E-3, and E-4 (4 years' or less service) under sections 10 and 11 of the Dependents Assistance Act of 1950 (50 App. U.S.C. 2210, 2211)."

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 10204

Ex. Ord. No. 10204, Jan. 16, 1951, 16 F.R. 417, as amended by Ex. Ord. No. 11120, Oct. 2, 1963, 28 F.R. 10631; Ex. Ord. No. 11146, Mar. 13, 1964, 29 F.R. 3417, which related to regulations governing basic allowances for quarters, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 11157, June 22, 1964, 29 F.R. 7973, formerly set out as a note under section 301 of this title.

[§ 403a. Repealed. Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title VI, § 603(c)(1), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1781]

Section, added Pub. L. 98-525, title VI, § 602(d)(1), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2534; amended Pub. L. 99-145, title VI, §§ 602(a)-(d), 604(b), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 636-638; Pub. L. 100-26, § 8(e)(8), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 286; Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title VI, § 602(a), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1445; Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title VI, § 602, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1575; Pub. L. 102-25, title VII, § 702(b)(1), (2), (c), Apr. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 117; Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title VI, §§ 603, 604(b), 633, Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1373, 1374, 1381; Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title VI, § 604, Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1679; Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title VI, § 605(a)(1), (b), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 358; Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title VI, §§ 604(d), 606(a)-(d), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2541, 2542, related to variable housing allowances.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective Jan. 1, 1998, see section 603(e) of Pub. L. 105-85, set out as an Effective Date of 1997 Amendment note under section 5561 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 403b. Cost-of-living allowance in the continental United States

(a) **PAYMENT AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary concerned may pay a cost-of-living allowance to the eligible members of a uniformed service under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(b) **ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.**—The following members are eligible to receive a cost-of-living allowance under this section:

(1) A member assigned to a high cost area in the continental United States.

(2) A member assigned to an unaccompanied tour of duty outside the continental United States if the primary dependent of the member resides in a high cost area in the continental United States.

(3) A member assigned to duty in the continental United States if the Secretary of the uniformed service concerned determines that—

(A) the primary dependent of the member must reside in a high cost area in the continental United States by reason of the member's duty location or other circumstances; and

(B) it would be inequitable for the member's eligibility for the allowance to be determined on the basis of the duty location of the member.

(c) **HIGH COST AREA DEFINED.**—An area is a high cost area for a fiscal year for purposes of this section if the uniformed services cost of living for that area for the base period exceeds the average cost of living in the continental United States for such base period by at least the threshold percentage. The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the other administering Secretaries, shall establish the threshold percentage, except that the threshold percentage may not be less than 8 percent. The administering Secretaries shall prescribe a higher threshold percentage to be applied for a fiscal year when it is necessary to do so in order to ensure that the total amount of the payments of the cost-of-living allowance made to members of the uniformed services under this section for such fiscal year does not exceed the total amount

available to all uniformed services for that fiscal year for paying such allowance.

(d) **AMOUNT OF ALLOWANCE.**—The cost-of-living allowance that may be paid to a member for a high cost area for a fiscal year shall be the amount that is equal to the product of—

(1) the amount of the average spendable income determined applicable for the regular military compensation level of such member under subsection (g); and

(2) the percentage equal to the excess of—

(A) the percentage by which the uniformed services cost of living for the member's high cost area for the base period exceeds the average cost of living in the continental United States for such base period, over

(B) the threshold percentage applicable to such fiscal year under subsection (c).

(e) **LIMITATION TO ONE ALLOWANCE.**—If primary dependents of a member reside separately in different high cost areas—

(1) the member may be paid only one cost-of-living allowance under this section; and

(2) the cost-of-living allowance payable to the member shall be the highest of the amounts computed under this section for such high cost areas.

(f) **SERVICE NOT COVERED.**—(1) A cost-of-living allowance may not be paid a member under this section for the days authorized for travel of the member in connection with a permanent change of duty station.

(2) A member of a reserve component is not eligible for a cost-of-living allowance under this section unless the member is on active duty under a call or order to active duty that—

(A) specifies a period of 140 days or more; or

(B) states that the call or order to active duty is in support of a contingency operation.

(g) **AVERAGE SPENDABLE INCOME.**—The Secretary of Defense shall determine, using a methodology and assumptions that the Secretary considers appropriate, the amounts of average spendable income of members of the uniformed services for various ranges of regular military compensation. For purposes of this subsection, spendable income is the total amount of regular military compensation that is available for purchase of goods and services after allocation of amounts for taxes, insurance, housing, gifts and contributions, and savings.

(h) **JOINT REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense and the other administering Secretaries shall jointly prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(i) **OTHER DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “primary dependent”, with respect to a member, means—

(A) the member's spouse; or

(B) in the case of an unmarried member, a dependent described in paragraph (2) or (4) of section 401(a) of this title.

(2) The term “cost of living” means a price index selected by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the other administering Secretaries, from among the following indices:

(A) The Consumer Price Index (all items—United States city average) published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(B) Any other index developed in the private sector that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the other administering Secretaries, determines is comparable to the Consumer Price Index and is appropriate for use for purposes of this section.

(3) The term “uniformed services cost of living” means the price index selected as described in paragraph (2) and adjusted as the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the other administering Secretaries, considers appropriate to reflect variations between expenses of members of the uniformed services (as offset by the basic allowance for subsistence) and the corresponding expenses of persons not members of the uniformed services with regard to the following:

(A) Nonhousing costs (including costs of transportation, goods, and services, taking into consideration savings attributable to use of such military facilities as commissary stores and exchange stores).

(B) Average income tax paid.

(C) Cost of health care.

(4) The term “base period”, with respect to a fiscal year, means the 12-month period ending on June 30 of the year in which such fiscal year begins.

(5) The term “administering Secretaries” means the following:

(A) The Secretary of Defense, with respect to the armed forces (other than the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy).

(B) The Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy.

(C) The Secretary of Commerce, with respect to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(D) The Secretary of Health and Human Services, with respect to the Public Health Service.

(Added Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title VI, §602(a)(1), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2779; amended Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, §1704(c), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314; Pub. L. 107-314, div. A, title VI, §654(b)(2), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2582.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (i)(5)(B). Pub. L. 107-296 substituted “of Homeland Security” for “of Transportation”.

Subsec. (i)(6). Pub. L. 107-314 struck out par. (6) which read as follows: “The term ‘continental United States’ means the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections

468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

CONDITIONS ON PROVISION OF ALLOWANCE

Section 602(b) of Pub. L. 103-337 provided that:

“(1) A cost-of-living allowance under section 403b of title 37, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), may not be provided until after the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date the Secretary of Defense submits the report required under paragraph (2).

“(2) Before implementing section 403b of title 37, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the other administering Secretaries (as defined in subsection (h)(6) [probably should be (i)(5)] of such section), shall submit to Congress a report describing—

“(A) the methods by which the Secretary of Defense would determine the price index to be used under such section and the types of nonhousing related costs that will be considered under such price index;

“(B) the manner by which the Secretary will establish the threshold percentage for purposes of such section;

“(C) the manner in which savings attributable to use of such military facilities as commissary stores, exchange stores, and military medical treatment facilities will be taken into consideration; and

“(D) the methods by which the Secretary proposes to prevent uncontrolled growth in Government expenditures through the cost-of-living allowance available under such section.”

[Report submitted by Secretary of Defense on Mar. 31, 1995.]

§ 404. Travel and transportation allowances: general

(a) Except as provided in subsection (f) and under regulations prescribed by the Secretaries concerned, a member of a uniformed service is entitled to travel and transportation allowances for travel performed or to be performed under orders, without regard to the comparative costs of the various modes of transportation—

(1) upon a change of permanent station, or otherwise, or when away from his designated post of duty regardless of the length of time he is away from that post;

(2) upon appointment, call to active duty, enlistment, or induction, from his home or from the place from which called or ordered to active duty to his first station;

(3) upon separation from the service, placement on the temporary disability retired list, release from active duty, or retirement, from his last duty station to his home or the place from which he was called or ordered to active duty, whether or not he is or will be a member of a uniformed service at the time the travel is or will be performed;

(4) when away from home to perform duty, including duty by a member of the Army National Guard of the United States or the Air National Guard of the United States, as the case may be, in his status as a member of the National Guard, for which he is entitled to, or has waived, pay under this title; and

(5) when not on active duty, if assigned to a Reserve school, and attending a reserve training meeting for the purpose of performing duties as an instructor at such meeting, if such meeting is 100 or more miles from the site at

which the member would attend paid drills of the Reserve school to which he is assigned.

(b)(1) The Secretaries concerned may prescribe—

(A) the conditions under which travel and transportation allowances are authorized, including advance payments thereof; and

(B) the allowances for the kinds of travel, but not more than the amounts authorized in this section.

(2) In prescribing such conditions and allowances, the Secretaries concerned shall provide that a member who is performing travel under orders away from his designated post of duty and who is authorized a per diem under clause (2) of subsection (d) shall be paid for the meals portion of that per diem in a cash amount at a rate that is not less than the rate established under section 1011(a) of this title for meals sold to members. The preceding sentence shall not apply with respect to a member on field duty or sea duty (as defined in regulations prescribed under section 403(f)(3) of this title) or a member of a unit with respect to which the Secretary concerned has determined that unit messing is essential to the accomplishment of the unit's training and readiness.

(c)(1) Under uniform regulations prescribed by the Secretaries concerned and as provided in paragraph (2), a member who—

(A) is retired, or is placed on the temporary disability retired list, under chapter 61 of title 10;

(B) is retired with pay under any other law, or, immediately following at least eight years of continuous active duty with no single break therein or more than 90 days, is discharged with separation pay or severance pay or is involuntarily released from active duty with separation pay or readjustment pay; or

(C) is involuntarily separated from active duty during the period beginning on October 1, 1990, and ending on December 31, 2001,

may, not later than one year from the date he is so retired, placed on that list, involuntarily separated, discharged, or released, except as prescribed in regulations by the Secretaries concerned, select his home for the purposes of the travel and transportation allowances authorized by subsection (a).

(2) A member authorized under paragraph (1) to select a home for the purposes of such allowances may select as his home—

(A) any place within the United States;

(B) the place outside the United States from which the member was called or ordered to active duty to his first duty station; or

(C) any other place.

However, if the member selects as his home a place other than a place described in clause (A) or (B) of the preceding sentence, the travel and transportation allowances authorized by subsection (a) may not exceed the allowances which would be payable if the place selected as his home were in the United States (other than Hawaii or Alaska).

(d)(1) The travel and transportation allowances authorized for each kind of travel may not be more than one of the following: